GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2945
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
WHO ASSISTANCE FOR POLIO ERADICATION
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation has given assistance for eradication of Polio;

(b) if so, the assistance obtained from WHO for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate Polio?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) World Health Organisastion has been mainly providing technical assistance for eradication of Polio mainly for Acute Flaccid Paralysis, Paralysis Surveillance, supplemental immunizationnamely Pulse Polio Immunization and mopping up at the central level for which they have provided 14.3 million US$ for polio eradication to Government of India over the past three years.

(c) For eradicating polio from the country, the Pulse Polio Immunization campaign was launched in 1995-96.In this campaign all children upto the age of 5 years are given polio drops on a single day. Upto 1998-99, two rounds of Pulse Polio campaign were conducted every year during December and January. Based on the surveillance data and expert advice, the efforts have now been intensified and during 1999-2000, four rounds of PPI are being held throughout the country followed by two additional rounds in eight high risk States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar PradeshThe intensive rounds are spread over 3-4 days. On the first day the children are immunized at the fixed polio booths and from 2nd day onwards teams of health workers go from house to house to immunize children who may be left over from the first day. States have been provided with funds to create awareness through information, education and education efforts and by involving the Panchayat members for reaching all children in the age group of 0-5 years. In addition, the Government is also taking steps to improve the routine immunization programme (including polio) all over the country.